Dewan's reply.—I have no objection to re-examine this question of *tharavila* and *thadivila*, and I shall do it. But I must protest against certain statements made by you which imply that the Government are not mindful of the interests of the people. There are certain misstatements also in regard to waste lands given for planting products like tea and rubber. Suitable *tharavila* is realised for the assignment of these lands also. Whereas in the case of lands granted under the Puduval Rules, the minimum rate of *tharavila* for dry lands is Rs. 10 only, the minimum rate is Rs. 25 for tea and rubber lands. You will, I believe, admit that the lands which are given for tea and rubber cultivation are more inaccessible than lands assigned under the Puduval Rules for ordinary cultivation. Tea and rubber lands are not wholly exempt from the payment of *thadivila* either.

You then referred to certain rules passed by the Hyderabad State. I have read those rules very carefully. I would request you to say whether the conditions in Hyderabad are in any way similar to those obtaining in Travancore. I would like to know whether you have studied the nature of communications in Hyderabad, its climatic conditions and density of population, how much land is available there for occupation, and what advantage has been taken of those rules by the people so far. Comparisons are odious and unprofitable. As I have already said, I shall re-examine the rates of *tharavila* and *thadivila*.

13. The peculiar difficulties of the people of Shertallai in the matter of puduval registry and the treatment of encroachment on porambokes.

Mr. P. K. Mathew (Member, Shertallai Taluk) said that, although the Puduval Rules had been revised, people were not receiving the benefits which those Rules were intended to afford. He stated that the reasons for that undesirable state of affairs, so far as Shertallai was concerned, were two, *viz.*, (1) undue delay in the disposal of *puduval* applications, and (2) high rates of *tharavila*. In regard to delay in the disposal of *puduval* applications, the Member said that only *kayal porambokes* were available for assignment in the Shertallai taluk, that in the case of such lands the Department of Public Works had to be consulted before assignment and that there was delay in consequence. With a view to avoid the difficulty, the Member suggested that such portions of the *kayal* as were required by that department might be demarcated beforehand and the balance available for assignment transferred to the head of *poramboke*. The Tahsildars could then dispose of applications for the registry of such lands without reference to that department to the extent allowed by the Rules. The Member also suggested that a rule might be added prescribing a time-limit for the disposal of applications for lands.

With regard to *tharavila*, the Member said that the lowest rate of *tharavila* imposed on lands in Shertallai was Rs. 25 per acre and that no maximum was fixed in that respect. He explained how the cost involved in the reclamation of *kayals* was heavy and how that cost varied in proportion to the depth of the *kayal*, and said that, in view of those circumstances, the rates of *tharavila* on reclaimed *kayal porambokes* should range between Rs. 5 and Rs. 25 per acre. The Member observed that very heavy *tharavila* was fixed by Peishkars and Tahsildars in order to show increased revenue in their respective Divisions and taluks. He pointed out that the attention of the Government should be directed not merely to the accrual of immediate income, but also to the disposal of a larger extent of land so as to increase the permanent revenue of the State.

Referring to the eastern taluks of Minachil, Kunnatnad, Todupuzha and Muvattupuzha, the Member said that the difficulty in the matter of the assignment of *puduval* lands in those taluks was due to the imposition of high rates of *thadivila*. He urged the necessity either for an appreciable reduction in the rates of *thadivila* or for the insertion of a clause in the Puduval Rules making it obligatory on the Forest Department to remove the tree growth on *puduval* lands within a specified time.

The Member brought to the notice of Government that the lands assigned to the depressed classes were not being cultivated for want of money, and because, under the

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rules, they could not alienate those lands for raising the required money. He suggested that the rule regarding the alienation of lands assigned to the depressed classes be so amended as to make it competent for local officers to sanction such alienation wherever necessary.

Another suggestion of the Member was that the provision in the Puduval Rules under which town lands were to be taxed in proportion to the amount of *tharavila* imposed, should be modified, the tax on adjoining lands being taken as the standard, and that Rule 59 should be so altered as to reduce the period for cancellation of a registry by Government from 2 years to 3 or 4 months.

Speaking about the difficulties experienced by the people on account of the way in which *poramboke* encroachments were being detected and dealt with by revenue officers, the Member observed that the settlement subdivisions had not been surveyed, and that, if a proper survey was made, much of the present difficulty would be removed. He also pointed out how building sites, etc., occupied, more than 100 or 150 years ago, were being marked out as encroachments and added that that was due to the negligence of revenue officers. The Member prayed that the necessary arrangements might be made in order to remedy those evils.

Dewan's reply.—I have already answered most of the points on which the Member has touched, in my reply to the previous members. In regard to *poramboke* Government have done all that is possible in the enunciation of rules to prevent hardships to *bona fide* occupants and everything depends upon the way in which the rules are worked. There may be some cases in which the rules are not worked properly and, as I have said in reply to another member, the remedy in all such cases lies in the aggrieved parties appealing to the higher authorities. It is not the intention of Government to penalise old and *bona fide* occupations; it is their intention to regularise them and assign them to the occupants themselves, if they are unobjectionable. There may be abuses of powers in certain cases, but all these can be rectified by appeals to the higher revenue officers. This is only a matter of detail and it does not show any defects in the rules themselves. As I said in my Address, Government expect the Tahsildars, Dewan Peishkars and the Land Revenue Commissioner to be in a position now to devote greater attention to *poramboke* and *puduval* work, and when they begin to do so, I am sure that most of the abuses and difficulties referred to by the Member will disappear. The remedy lies in their doing their work with greater zest and greater attention.

The Member is right in saying that that there is at present much delay in the disposal of *puduval* cases. The delay must be reduced. Tahsildars are responsible officers and I cannot conceive of a whole body of officers like the Tahsildars shirking their work. It seems to be that the delay that has characterised their work in the past is due mainly to the fact that they had too many duties to perform. Now that they have been relieved of Devaswom, Maramat and Magisterial work, Government expect them to devote greater attention to their revenue work and to the disposal of revenue cases more promptly and satisfactorily.

In regard to the income Government derive from *puduvals*, there seems to be an erroneous impression. Government do get returns from the revenue officers showing the extent of lands assigned, the number of cases disposed of, etc. Government do not rest satisfied merely with the income from *puduvals*. That is only incidental to the assignment. What is more important is the number of cases disposed of, the promptitude with which they are attended to, etc. All these facts are taken into account by the Government.

In regard to the depressed classes, there are rules under which agricultural loans may be granted to them. Government are annually ear-marking a large amount for the purpose and a good deal of that money has been borrowed by the[illegible]. If the depressed classes do not take advantage of those rules it is their own [illegible] When they get a piece of land on registry, it is [illegible] to be disafforested, it is too soon amount of loan and improve the land. In [illegible] have to see what extent of such lands is the land itself is surety in part. The[illegible] etc. We shall have to see whether there are see what difficulty there is in a [illegible]ing close by or occupying any of the swamp [illegible]inly be considered.

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worthy. It is also open to him to get a loan from a Co-operative Society. We have created all these facilities. It is only propaganda work, education and explanation of the provisions by men like yourself that is needed to enable the depressed classes to take full advantage of the rules.

14. Difficulties in getting lands registered under the Puduval Rules with suggestions for increasing the output of paddy by throwing open swampy areas for cultivation.

Mr. C. A. A. Meera Rowther (Member, Peermade Taluk) said that, considering the mountainous nature of Peermade and the ravages of wild animals, Government had in bygone days registered lands on concessional rates, and that, during the last settlement also, many blocks of land which had been in the *bona fide* occupation of people were registered in their names free of *tharavila* and *thadivila*. But, in spite of those concessions, only very few lands had been taken up for occupation and cultivation, and the people had not thought it worth their while to settle down there. Such being the case, the high rates of *tharavila* and *thadivila* laid down in the Revised Puduval Rules scared away the people from taking up more lands. Further, whenever lands were applied for, they were surveyed at the cost of the applicants and then put up to auction. In many cases bidders were not forthcoming and the surveyed lands were left as *tharisu*, thereby causing loss to Government in the shape of *tharavila*, tax, etc., which they would have got if those lands had been assigned. To remove the above grievances and to accelerate the development of Peermade, the Member prayed for the following relief measures:—

(1) that the *tharavila* on *puduval* lands be fixed at varying rates from Rs. 3 to Rs. 10 per acre, and that, whenever the amount of *tharavila* on any land exceeded Rs. 100, it might be recovered in five yearly instalments;

(2) that the existing rates of *thadivila* be reduced to one-fourth of the same;

(3) that the ryots in Peermade be allowed to carry arms without license; and

(4) that they be allowed to graze their cattle without the payment of fees.

15. Suggestions for remedying the hardships of the people and the loss to Government through the prohibition of further registry of land within the cardamom reserve.

Mr. C. A. A. Meera Rowther (Member, Peermade Taluk) said that, owing to the want of adequate facilities for improving the cardamom gardens, and to the trouble from plant pest for about the last 3 or 4 years, the cardamom industry in the country was on its decline. Added to those difficulties, Government had recently prohibited the further registry of lands within the Cardamom Hills Reserve. That order prevented the agriculturists from taking up further lands and improving the condition of the cardamom industry. He, therefore, prayed that, in order to remove the difficulties that stood in the way of the development of that industry, lands in the Cardamom Hills Reserve might be assigned to cardamom ryots and all possible facilities afforded to them to develop that industry.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to the assignment of lands under the Puduval Rules, I have already said that the question of reducing the rates of *tharavila* and *thadivila* would be re-examined. In regard to the assignment of cardamom lands, in the first place, there are very few applications for such lands now. Secondly, such applications as have been received are from non-Travancoreans. Moreover, if an area of 20 acres is granted for cardamom cultivation, a large extent of the surrounding area has to be allowed to lie waste. It is for the above reasons that Government have recently prohibited further assignment of lands within the Cardamom Hills Reserve. Of course, the existing cultivations may continue and orders have been issued to regularise them. It is the policy of the Government first to provide the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja with lands for cultivation, and then to grant [illegible] of outsiders for lands.

16. Difficulties in the way of Pulayas and other depressed classes in getting puduval lands registered in their names.

Mr. Kurumpan Daivathan (Member, nominated) said that the rules recently issued by Government for the assignment of 3 acres of land at concessional

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